

Dear Mr. Calabrese,

It was brought to my attention this morning that the Education Committee in Connecticut was considering changing current laws regarding the training and credentials of providers of Applied Behavior Analysis for children with autism in our schools. I was informed that proposed changes say that "anyone who is certified in any other area" but ABA would be qualified and also that administrators without Applied Behavior training and certification would be able to supervise and override individuals with proper Applied Behavior credentials.

I am against both these changes in education law in the state of Connecticut. I know how important it is for children with autism to have the full benefits of therapists who are properly trained in Applied Behavior Analysis and those who work under their supervision. Many administrators are not trained in Applied Behavior Analysis or do follow their guidelines because of costs or time associated with doing things right. This should not be permitted because children with autism need early, intensive, and professional help in their ABA programming and this cannot happen without proper training and standards in education. The importance of high quality ABA programming to children with autism and the related outcomes for these children should come first.

Please provide this information to the Education Committee who are weighing these discussions.

Thank you,

Maureen Lagana  
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Mother of a child with autism  
Author

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